

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are presently in the application. The above amendments are being made to place the application in better condition for examination.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,295,409 to Byram et al is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 are directed to accelerator pedal module (1) for controlling the power of a driving engine comprising,

a bearing block (4) embodied as a one-piece molded part comprising a bearing region having a bearing bore (98) and at least one bearing face (82), *said bearing bore (98) and said at least one bearing face (82) being separated from one another on said bearing block (4),*

a pedal lever (2) retained rotatably on said at least one bearing face (82) and being coaxial with a pivot axis (20) on the bearing block (4),

a rotation sensor (102) having a sensor shaft (100) actuated by the pedal lever (2), the sensor shaft being coaxial with the pivot axis (20), and

at least a part (104) of the sensor shaft (100) being directly supported rotatably in the bearing bore (98) of the bearing region of the bearing block (4), said bearing bore (98) being defined by its *bearing surface which faces radially inward toward the pivot axis (20)*, wherein at least part of a radial surface of said bearing region forms said at least one bearing face (82) for the pedal lever (2) and *wherein said at least one bearing face (82) faces radially outward from the pivot axis (20).*

Byram et al is relied upon by the examiner for showing bearing block 65b, pedal lever 14, rotation sensor 34b, sensor shaft 12b, hollow peg 70b, and in particular a bearing region (area holding bearing 25b), bearing bore (hole housing shaft 12b and bearing 25b) and bearing face (contact between bearing 25b and bore).

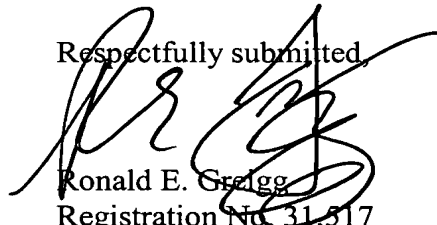
Byram et al differs from the present invention because in Byram et al the bearing region of housing 65b, the bearing bore, and the bearing surface appear to be one and the same surface. Claim 1 now requires that the bearing block comprise a bearing bore and at least one bearing face and that the bearing bore and the at least one bearing face are separated from one another on the bearing block. Further distinguishing this feature over Byram et al is the requirement that the at least one bearing face (82) faces radially outward from the pivot axis (20), while the bearing surface of the bearing bore (98) faces radially inward toward the pivot axis 20. As such, Byram et al does not anticipate claims 1-2 and accordingly reconsideration of the rejection is earnestly requested.

Applicant appreciates the examiner's indication of allowance of claims 3-12.

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Entry of the amendment is earnestly solicited and allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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